

# **NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting**

**February 7, 2007 MINUTES**

**Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria**

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Present: Joe DeVito (chair), Richard Dyer, Donna Gordon, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Lisa Langone, Officer Jim O'Loughlin, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Stephen Ross, Terance Sack, Robert Stauro. Students: Kira Mascho

Regrets: Anthony Bibbo, Brandon Harris, Joanne Kazarian, Kipaya Kapiga, Sarah Laski, Katie Sanders,

Staff: Beverly Droz, Director, Human and Volunteer Services

Guests: Swee Fong, Stephanie Fong

**The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.**

**Motion to approve minutes of January 3, 2006 was passed.**

**Treasurer's Report:**

FCD deposit for the NSHS seminar has been submitted - \$350.

**Balance in fiscal year account is \$1,329.23**

**The revolving account balance is now \$ 404.12**, following the deposit noted in Jan. minutes of \$44.50 from continued water bottle sales at city hall.

Note: Since the last meeting, another \$14 has been collected from continued water bottle sales at city hall and will be deposited. (This is the end of city hall water bottle sales.)

**Drugs & Alcohol Prevention Booklet:**

The final copy of the Drugs and Alcohol Prevention resource booklet was handed out. The Youth Commission has been reviewing the stages of its development since mid-fall. We've initially printed 1,000 copies.

Bev reported on the distribution to date of the booklet:

- The booklet was released on 1/18/07 at the Newton Public Schools Project INTERFACE'S "Drinking, Drugs and Depression" forum at Newton Wellesley Hospital.
- Copies have been sent to:  
All Newton School principals, all PTO co-chairs, all school nurses via the Health Department, Counseling Departments and Career Centers at the public middle and high schools, key contacts in the School Administration center, local colleges (Lasell, Mount Ida & B.C.), Police Community Service Bureau and Parks & Rec. Department, members of Youth Interagency Task Force, and to our elected officials such as Aldermen, School Committee Representatives, our State Reps. and Senator Creem.
- The booklet is also available on the City's website – on our Youth web-pages, and also on Project INTERFACE'S website.

Members were pleased with such quick distribution and offered other ideas:

1. Officer O'Loughlin will take a box full to have available at the Police Station for parents.
2. Peter suggested more be sent to the Probation Court for parents involved there. Bev will do this.

3. Stephan suggested copies go to the temples and Bev said we'll send 1 out to each religious institution with cover letter.
4. Stephan said they should be available to be handed out at parent's night at the school. However the problem with this is that we don't have funding to print that many copies. Donna and Joe said that many parents can download a copy from the websites.

Joe reported that the information about the booklet was also released as the Mayor's January 29<sup>th</sup> press conference and we passed around the article from the 1/31/07 Newton TAB. Bev said a parent already phoned in requesting a copy of the booklet. She added she would send periodic announcements to the TAB to have the resource listed.

Joe thanked the Youth Commission members for their input. The Commission thanked Bev and her assistant, Denise Joseph, for their work in publishing and distributing the booklet.

#### **Freedom from Chemical Dependency:**

- Freedom from Chemical Dependency Seminars will take place at NSHS on 3/5/07. It will run for each class block 8:30-2:30pm. Hundreds of students attend a session.
- FCD seminars will also be presented at NNHS on 3/17/07.
- This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year sponsoring these seminars and our cost is approximately \$1,500.

#### **Internet Safety:**

It was noted that the Needham Youth Commission is hosting a free Internet Safety Seminar featuring Katelyn LeClerc, the Internet Safety Program Coordinator from the state attorney general's office.

Joe will contact the person in Needham to learn more about this seminar. The goal is to have an Internet Safety program later this spring. Matt and Richard reminded the group that we want to involve the middle schools.

#### **Other business:**

Joe pointed out the article about the Bedford Youth Commission making an interactive website for teens in conjunction with their city's website.

Stephanie reported that Parks & Rec. Dept's Camp Fair ran 2/6/07 and they had about 750 people come through to learn about the many camp programs that are available.

Recruitment of youth for the Commission: Stephanie is outreaching to James D'Orazio at NNHS but needs a descriptive page from Bev about the Commission. Terry will outreach to some students as well.

#### **Youth Foundation Subcommittee:**

Joe reported that he received a conflict of interest memo from the city solicitor in response to his question asking if there was a conflict of interest between holding a position as a member of the Youth Commission and as an officer of the Youth Foundation. The subcommittee meeting regarding the Youth Foundation will meet following this meeting.

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.**

**The next meeting will be on March 7 at 7pm in the City Hall Cafeteria.**